



YMCA CAMP SLOPER

A PROGRAM CENTER OF THE SOUTHTON-CHESHIRE COMMUNITY YMCAs

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YMCA Camp Sloper Outdoor Center Southington-Cheshire Community YMCAs

DAY CAMP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Q: What does the basic camp day look like (schedule/activities)?

A: 8:30am – 9:00am	Parent/Bus Drop-Off <i>Campers are dropped off at camp and are led to their appropriate Unit</i>
9:00am – 9:30am	Morning Announcements/Attendance <i>Kick-off to the day; includes daily announcements and lots of fun</i>
9:30am – 10:30am	Swimming Period <i>Swim instruction and games to get campers in the water and having fun</i>
10:30am – 11:30am	Unit Period <i>Large group activity with an entire Unit (60-120 campers)</i>
11:30am – 12:00pm	Lunch <i>Chance to take a break and talk to the counselor and other campers</i>
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Rotating Period <i>Different traditional camp activity each day (arts and crafts, archery, tower)</i>
1:00pm – 1:30pm	L.O.G.S. <i>Lots of Great Stuff; camp-wide assembly loaded with songs and skits</i>
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Free Activity <i>Camper's choice out of a variety of our camp activities</i>
2:30pm – 3:00pm	End of Day Meeting and Dismissal <i>Announcements and reminders for the upcoming day of camp</i>

2. Q: What camp activities will my child participate in throughout a 2-week session at camp?

A: Listed are a variety of traditional camp activities that campers do throughout a session. Participation in some activities varies by age and ability.

3. Q: What is the camper to counselor ratios for each unit?

Archery	Skits and Songs	Nature	Waterpark	Fort Building
Hiking	Basketball	Low Ropes	Arts and Crafts	Frisbee Golf
Field Games	Climbing Tower	Boating	Relay Races	Family Night
High Ropes	Swimming	Playscape	Superslide	Overnights
Tie Dye T-Shirts	Crystal Mine	Skate Park	Mountain Boards	

A: Our camper to counselor ratio varies per Unit. Wanderers, our pre-K program, is a 5:1 ratio and Sloperians, our K-1 program, is an 8:1 ratio. The rest of our Units (Explorers, Pioneers, Rangers and Trailblazers) and specialty camps (Sports Camp, Rock Climbing Camp, Skate Camp, Art Camp, etc) are a 10:1 ratio.

4. Q: What qualifications does the staff at your camp have?

A: The Camp Director, Coast Directors and Unit Directors are all CPR, First Aid and Epi-pen Administration Certified. They all have been working at YMCA Camp Sloper for a minimum of 3+ years and most of them are year-round employees of our YMCAs. Senior Counselors, the head counselor for a group of campers, are all entering their senior year of high school or higher and go through our camp's hiring process and 30 hours of staff training prior to working at Sloper. Junior Counselors, group assistants, are all entering their junior year of high school and also have gone through our camp's hiring process and 30 hours of staff training prior to working at Sloper. The hiring process includes a background check, verifying certifications, a group and one-on-one interview, reference checks and specific skills verification.

5. Q: What do you do to monitor the safety and health of all campers in Sloper Pond?

A: Along with having fully certified lifeguards supervising the waterfront, each camper is tested on the first day of the session and placed in a swim group based on skill level and each swim group is supervised by a Senior Counselor while in the water. The waterfront is separated into a shallow-end and a deep-end, where campers in certain swim level groups stay for the entire swim period. We do a check every 10 minutes during the swim period. We also have set emergency procedures, which are strictly practiced during staff training and periodically throughout the summer. As far as water quality is concerned, the pond is treated for algae and weeds annually and tested once a session and treated as needed.



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6. Q: What should my child wear/bring to camp each day?

A: All campers must have a few items with them each day: a lunch, closed toe shoes and a bathing suit and towel. Some recommended items are: a backpack (to hold everything), a water bottle and a hat or visor. Some items that should not be brought to camp include: cell phones, iPods, game-boys, trading cards, camping knives and matches or a lighter.

7. Q: What is before care and after care and what will my child do while there?

A: Before care (6:30am – 9:00am) and after care (3:00pm – 5:30pm) are options for parents that need to drop-off their camper earlier than when camp begins or pick-up their camper later than when camp ends. We like to think of it as an extension of our day camp program, where they participate in various camp activities. You can choose before care or after care on our registration form when signing up for camp.

8. Q: What are some of these notices that I am getting throughout the session?

A: Refrigerator Calendar – a lay out of the theme days, special events and field trips throughout the 2-week session at YMCA Camp Sloper
Unit Newsletter – this lays out what is happening in your child's specific unit during the session (field trips, special events, family night information, the predicted weather, etc).

Permission Slips – depending on the event (field trip or sleepover), they are for the parents to see what permission is needed for, if there is a cost involved and who to contact with any questions; make sure you read them to get all of the information you need.

Picture Forms – each session, we have our picture lady come in to take group pictures; these forms give parents an option to purchase their child's group picture.

9. Q: How do I make a special request to have my child in another child's group?

A: We ask that all special group requests are made as far in advance as possible. There is a space on our registration form where special requests can be made. Also, you can contact us at YMCA Camp Sloper and we can inform the appropriate director prior to the making of groups. We will do our best to accommodate all special requests.

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YMCA Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Financial assistance available for qualifying individuals and families.

The YMCA is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization.